

Remarks

Claims 2, 4, 5, and 7-11 are now pending in this application. Applicants have amended claims 2, 4, and 5, added new claims 10 and 11 and cancelled claims 1, 3, and 6 to clarify the claimed invention. Claims 7-9 are withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being directed to non-elected inventions. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.

With respect to the objection to the drawings, Figs. 2-6 illustrate a stationary platform 3, a movable platform 31, supporting arms 13-15, and linkages 16-21. The actuators 10 and 11 move the supporting arms 13 and 14 about axes that extend from top to bottom of Figs. 2 and 4-6. Second arm 14 can rotate in a plane that is substantially normal to the extent of the axis that the second arm rotates about. Therefore, the drawings illustrate all elements of the invention recited in the claims.

The specification describes all elements of the invention recited in the claims as all elements described above are described. The stationary platform may include the column structure described in the specification. There is no requirement that the specification describe an invention in the exact same terms recited in the claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the specification and rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

Applicants have rewritten claims 1 and 6 as new claims 10 and 11. The language objected to by the Examiner is not present in claims 10 and 11. Applicant submits that all pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 99/58301 in view of WO 99/14018.

The combination of WO 99/58301 in view of WO 99/14018 does not suggest the invention recited in claims 10 and 11 since, among other things, the combination does not suggest a first linkage between a first supporting arm and a movable platform that includes a triangle and a second linkage between a second supporting arm and a movable platform that includes a triangle. Rather, both WO 99/58301 and WO 99/14018 suggest linkages that include parallel arm linkages. Such an arrangement limits the working range of the robot. The claimed invention does not suffer from such shortcomings and provides a robot that has a greater working range than either WO 99/58301 or WO 99/14018.

Therefore, the combination of WO 99/58301 in view of WO 99/14018 does not suggest the invention recited in claims 2, 4, 5, 10, and 11. It follows that the combination of WO 99/58301 in view of WO 99/14018 does not make the invention recited in claims 2, 4, 5, 10, and 11 obvious. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

In view of the above, the references relied upon in the office action do not suggest

patentable features of the claimed invention. Therefore, the references relied upon in the office action do not make the claimed invention obvious. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection based upon the cited references.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this case and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance.

If an interview would advance the prosecution of this case, Applicants urge the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge fee insufficiency and credit overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 11, 2009

/Eric J. Franklin/
Eric J. Franklin, Reg. No. 37,134
Attorney for Applicants
Venable LLP
575 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004
Telephone: 202-344-4936
Facsimile: 202-344-8300